

49ERS

REPORT



Back In Form

Niners' defense cuts Giants down to size

Poster Shot

Adam Walker

... Page 9

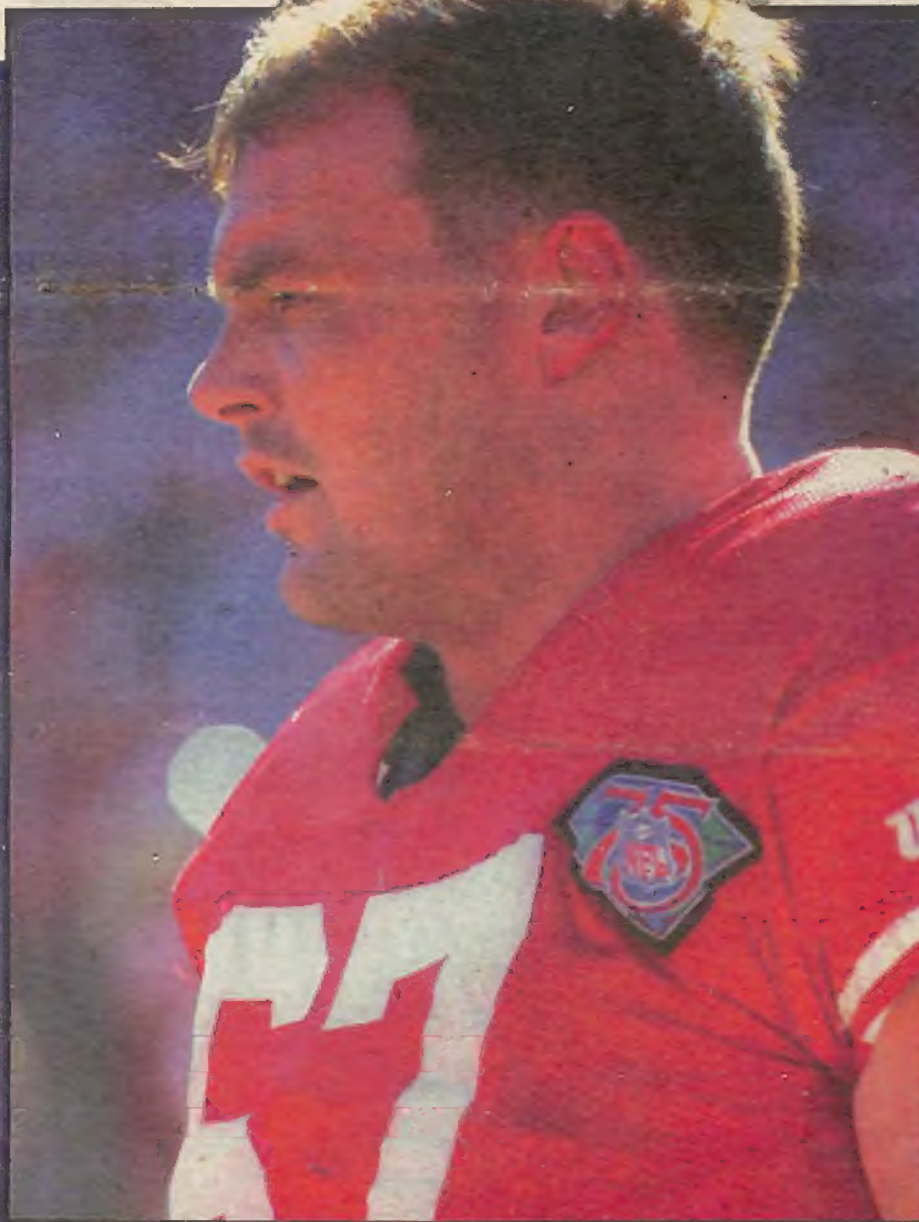
Top-Shelf QBs

Steve Young was one of only two quarterbacks with more than 100 pass attempts after four games to have a quarterback rating higher than 100. The Browns' Vinny Testaverde was the other.

Maybe This Year

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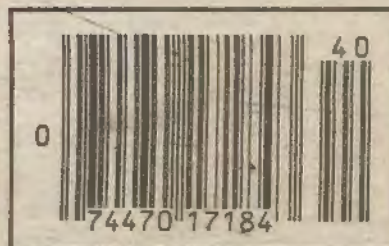


Backfield gains yards, respect

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49ERS REPORT

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Doubts about the 49ers' running game have been dispelled, so far, by Derek Loville and William Floyd.

By Kevin Lynch

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FROM THE EDITOR

LAUGHTER IS BEST MEDICINE



KEVIN LYNCH

A big cloud hovered over Santa Clara when the 49ers took to practicing last week. It glowered at them.

"You're dirt," it seemed to say to the team.

That's how it must seem to the 49ers following a loss. They experienced an "L" of significance for the first time in nearly a year when they

fell to the Lions, 27-24 on Sept. 25. Running back Derek Loville described the mood of the team in the week of preparation for the Giants game.

"It was like someone had died around the complex," he said.

EVERY YEAR the expectations for the 49ers seem greater. Every year, the minor flaws and foibles of the team seem to get magnified to a greater degree. It can make things a bit unpleasant.

One player once said that if a hunk of coal was stuffed in the small intestine of George Seifert the week of a big game, it would be a diamond by game time. That's pressure. The media play their role. We provide the magnifying glass.

Take the case of one Douglas Robert Zachariah Brien. He's the 49ers' kicker, and usually goes by Doug. Recently, however, he has taken on other names. Across the Bay Area, fans were using terms like "barrell scum" and "pus toe" and other assorted names after he missed two field goals in the loss to the Lions. The one he muffed with six seconds left would have tied the score.

The media were right there, asking the annoying questions following the wayward 40-yard attempt:

"What happened?"

"How was the snap?"

"What are you doing wrong?"

"How in the world can you show your face after missing such a kick?"

"Could you spare a quarter?"

AGAINST THE BACKDROP of the 49ers' unfathomable expectations, Brien's small intestine could have churned out a nice sized Star of India.

Punter Tommy Thompson was dropped in the same vat of swirling hot water. His two kicks amounted to 62 yards in the Lions game. In those climate-controlled environs such as the Pontiac Silverdome, a punter is expected to launch them to the catwalk. A drop-kick goes 50 yards in a domed stadium.

Both Brien and Thompson were a slipup away from kicking in Canada. So, what do you do with so much pressure on you? What do you do when you're one more shank away from losing a six-figure salary for six months of work?

You laugh.

Brien and Thompson had agreed to appear on a television program long before the Debacle Under the Dome. They decided to get together over at Brien's house to talk about the show. While talking things over they decided to take out some sports sections from the week.

"It was kind of funny in the paper," Brien said. "It had my mug shot with the two missed field goals. It was like, 'Wanted dead or alive.'"

THE TWO KICKERS had belly laughs leafing through the newspapers. The laughter must have had a loosening effect on Brien's hamstrings. By game time he was ready. He was summoned in the first quarter to boot a 40-yarder in the unpredictable environs of Candlestick/3Comm/Deionless Park. He nailed it — an end-over-end beauty that fell through the uprights as easy as rain.

The points were erased because the Giants were called for

defensive holding. Later in the drive Brien got closer, and hit a 22-yarder. Then came the topper, the indisputable evidence that Brien could kick. The undeniable proof the 49ers' crack-jack staff of scouting talent was right when they suggested Brien be the first kicker taken in the '94 draft. He booted a 46-yarder off the dirt.

Thompson, apparently, didn't laugh enough. His first punt was badly shanked and then took a backwards bounce. It amounted to a mighty 14 yards. The Candlestick/3Comm/Deionless crowd booed and threw wine glasses. Team administrators were putting Thompson's name down on the alumni list.

Thompson came to the sideline and told the Brien the punt felt like "crap." Brien confirmed the findings.

"It looked like crap," he said, and proceeded to tell Thompson he had nothing to lose.

He might as well try to punt the next one into the Bay. If you're going to get fired, at least do it full speed. Thompson agreed and boomed his next attempt. It was a 47-yard gem with more hang time than a Willie McCovey popup.

WHETHER IT WAS ENOUGH to save Thompson from the unemployment line remains to be seen. George Seifert will have a hard time giving Thompson the boot with the memory of that sky-tickler in his head.

But if Thompson and Brien go to the Pro Bowl the 49ers have nobody but themselves to thank, particularly in the case of Brien. After his gruesome miss in Pontiac, 285-pound offensive tackle Steve Wallace sat next him to him on the long bus ride to the airport.

"I told him we had some great players — Joe Montana, Steve Young, Jerry Rice — go through some tough times," Wallace said. "The only thing to do is concentrate on your job. You can look back on this and laugh about it."

Apparently, Brien already has.

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B.Y. OUT FOR SIX WEEKS

Defensive tackle Bryant Young will have a six-week stay on the bench to rest torn ligaments in his right ankle.

Young suffered the injury with two minutes to play against the Lions on Sept. 25. Surgery has been ruled out for now.

YOUNG ALSO TWISTED his right knee on the play, but the ankle injury is considered much more serious. The injury is similar but more severe than the one guard Derrick Deese suffered against

the Falcons in Week 2.

YOUNG SHOULD RETURN for the Nov. 12 game against the Cowboys in Texas Stadium.

A college teammate of Young's at Notre Dame, Junior Bryant, will replace him. Oliver Barnett should also see increased playing time.

"Bryant Young is one hell of a player to step in for," Coach George Seifert said. "but they're both from Notre Dame so ..."

Bryant was on the practice squad in the last two seasons before his promotion to the active roster this year. He started several preseason games, with Young having arthroscopic surgery on his left knee and Dana Stubblefield staging a contract holdout.

"I CAME IN THE same year with as Dana," Bryant said. "So I got a feel for what he likes to do and for his game."

The coaches' fear, of course, is oppo-

nents will double-team the Pro Bowler Stubblefield, something they couldn't do as often with Bryant Young playing.

"THAT'S WHAT THE television people will say," defensive coordinator Pete Carroll said. "But they (opponents) still have to block people."

"Anytime you lose a quality player such as Bryant (Young) it's a setback," Seifert said. "The only thing you can do is rally and play that much better. That's the only thing we have an answer for."

BROWN MIGHT FACE SURGERY

Defensive end Dennis Brown might be spending some of his bye week on the operating table.

For the last few weeks Brown has been nursing a right knee injury. He has rarely practiced, and his playing time in games has been cut back.

"THERE'S THE POTENTIAL of talking with (team physician Michael) Dillingham and maybe coming up with a little more aggressive treatment. We don't expect anything long term."

Surgery would be of the arthroscopic variety. If Brown does have the operation, he would probably be replaced by Michael Brandon. Seifert also said the team has been practicing with Junior Bryant on the outside at Brown's spot and Oliver Barnett taking the inside spot vacated by injured Bryant Young.

COOK ON I.R.; HALL SIGNED

To make space on the 53-player active roster, the 49ers placed cornerback Toi Cook on the injured reserve and re-signed safety Darryl Hall.

Cook tore a rotator cuff during the 49ers' second game of the year, against the Falcons. The injury will take 10-12 weeks to heal. Cook was hoping to return in December, but that won't happen now. When a player goes on injured reserve he's lost for the entire season, including playoff games.

Hall was signed to a free agent contract from the Broncos during the off-season. He made the final roster, but was released a week later.

KICKERS BROUGHT IN

For those who were wondering, that was Doug Brien kicking against the Giants. But his job was in jeopardy last week.

The 49ers brought in four place-kickers for tryouts. The big names included Tony Zendejas, who made 18 of 23 field-goal tries for the Rams last year. Cary Blanchard, who was outdueled by Morten Andersen when he was with the Saints during training camp in 1993, also got a look. Blanchard kicked for the Jets from 1991-92. He made 38 of 48 field-goal attempts.

ALSO BROUGHT IN where young kickers Dirk Borogonone, formerly of the University of the Pacific, and Jon Baker, formerly of Arizona State.

Brien missed four field goals in the first four games, including a 40-yarder with six seconds left that would have tied the score against the Lions on Sept. 25. Ever since then his job has been threatened.

"It's part of the business," Brien said. "Kicking's like golf. You go on good streaks and you go on bad streaks. If you want to keep playing in

the NFL you go through those bad streaks as quickly as possible."

PUNTER TOMMY THOMPSON has also been unimpressive. His 33.3-yard net average is the lowest in the league. The 49ers had former Oilers punter Greg Montgomery in for a workout a few weeks ago.

Special teams coach Alan Lowry apparently appealed to head coach George Seifert to give his kickers another try.

Concerning Brien, Lowry said, "I hope it's a slump and not something that can't be corrected. I hope he'll come back from this."

Former UCLA and NFL veteran defensive tackle Jim Wahler was also in for tryout. He was with the 49ers in training camp. He previously spend time with the Redskins and Cardinals.

RAMS WANT FLIP-FLOP

The Rams want to play the 49ers in San Francisco on Oct. 22, instead of in St. Louis as scheduled.

The Rams were to have opened their new stadium, the Trans World Dome, against the Niners on that date. The club made a formal request to switch sites of the two games against the Niners so the construction crews can have more time to finish the \$260 million stadium.

THE RAMS WANT the opening of the stadium to be a gala event, and would like to play five games in it this season. They played their first two home games in Busch Stadium, home of the Cardinals baseball club, and are slated to meet the Falcons there on Oct. 15.

Capacity of the Trans World Dome is 66,000, as opposed to 59,000 for Busch Stadium.

PRACTICE SQUAD

NO.	NAME	POS.	COLLEGE
17	Alfonzo Browning	WR	Kentucky
26	Pat McGuirk	DB	Cal Poly-SLO
52	Antonio Armstrong	LB	Texas A&M
93	Ryan Kuehl	DT	Virginia
95	Herb Coleman	DE	Trinity Int'l

INJURED RESERVE

NO.	NAME	POS.	COLLEGE
41	Toi Cook	CB	Stanford

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GEORGE SEIFERT

JUNIOR SEES HIS TIME ARRIVE

Q. WILL JUNIOR BRYANT REPLACE (INJURED DEFENSIVE TACKLE) BRYANT YOUNG FOR NOW?

A. Yes. Junior had a good training camp and he's the next tackle in line. Throughout training camp and pre-season games he demonstrated he could hold his own. He's going to have to.

We tell our players when the opportunity develops like his now has, you have to take advantage of it. You're here. You want to play. You say you want to play, now this is the time to step up and get it done. Obviously, Bryant Young is one hell of a player to step in for.

Q. IS BRYANT BETTER AT (DEFENDING) THE RUN OR THE PASS?

A. He has the ability to do both. I don't know if one is dramatically (different from the other). If I say one is better than the other, than I'd be saying the other's not very good. He's pretty good at both. He is replacing a guy who has the potential to be a Pro Bowl player and, in my opinion, should be a Pro Bowl player. That doesn't mean he can't step up and do a hell of a job. We expect him to do that.

Q. AFTER THEIR POOR SHOWINGS AGAINST THE LIONS, HOW HAVE DOUG BRIEN AND

TOMMY THOMPSON LOOKED IN PRACTICE?

A. Fine. We had Thompson punting into a heavy wind. That's one of the strategies to build his confidence (laughter). So, yeah, that's one of our coaching plays. He did all right.

Q. IS (CENTER) BART OATES OFF TO A BETTER SEASON THIS YEAR THAN LAST SEASON?

A. I think so. One of the initial problems last year was just getting the exchange. That was a problem that you wouldn't think would be one. They (Oates and quarterback Steve Young) are veteran guys who worked together in college (Brigham Young). We got through that and we had a whole new system, and the way we adjusted to pass rushes. But I think he's having a better year than he had a year ago, yeah. And he did a pretty good job last year.

Q. DID HE HAVE TO PROVE HIMSELF ALL OVER AGAIN LAST YEAR?

A. I think most players do. There are a few with whom you have that luxury of not (needing) them go out and demonstrate they (can still) hold their own and be the guy.

Q. WAS LAST WEEK A SETBACK FOR (CORNERBACK) MARQUEZ POPE?

A. No. He had a lot of passes thrown his way, certainly, as everyone is aware. I don't know if it's a step back. You know that when you're relatively new to the position, people are going to go after you. The same thing happened to Eric Davis. The same thing has happened to any number

of cornerbacks we've had here over the years. We've had a couple of pretty good corners. We've had a couple pretty good games and all of a sudden this happens. It's not something you think is going to take place. You're always thinking positive. Yet it does.

Q. HAS THE COVERAGE BEEN TOO SOFT?

A. After the fact, we might have reacted a little bit quicker to the changing up of some of our coverages. But I've been in this situation myself a number of times as a defensive coach and secondary coach, and you say, 'OK, just don't panic too soon and the players will get a sense of what's going on.' And, all of sudden, you're behind the eightball. That happens sometimes.

Q. WOULD YOU CONSIDER REPLACING POPE WITH TYRONNE DRAKEFORD?

A. I'm sure there will be conversations about it, but I don't sense that that's imminent. Tyronne had his own problems.

Q. WHY HAS YOUR DEFENSE HAD PROBLEMS ON THIRD DOWNS?

A. I just got through discussing that with the defensive coaches, as a matter of fact. It's something on which we always prided ourselves — being very effective on third down situations both offensively and defensively. But in the last couple of games people been making third down (conversions) on us more consistently than would like. ☹

49ERS REPORT

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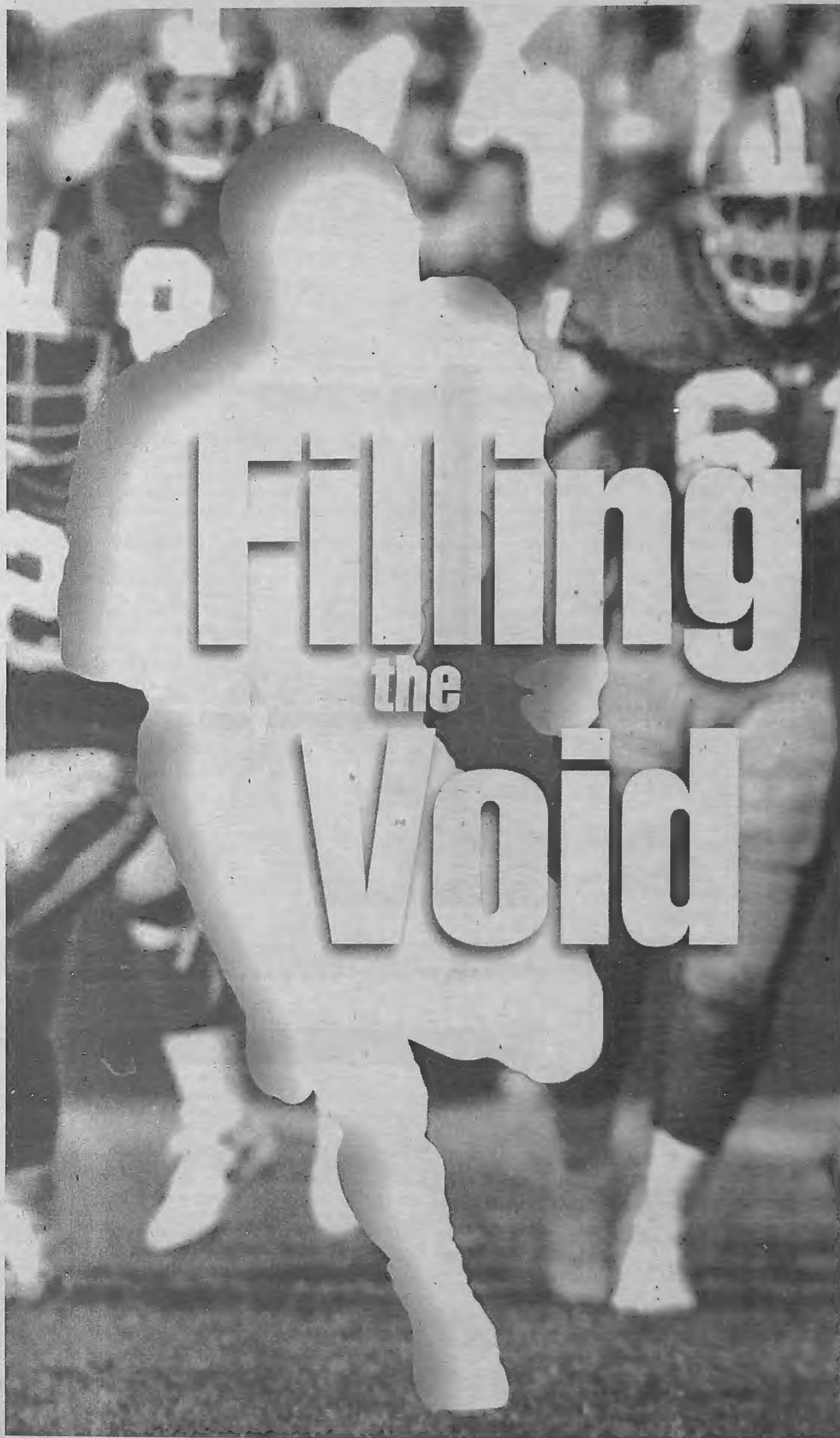


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Loville, Floyd pick up where Watters left off

By Kevin Lynch

Where's Marv Albert when you need him? The sportscaster with the baritone voice, who talks as if he has a walnut in each cheek, has made his emphatic and saliva-loosening "Yess!" part of sports vernacular.

The 49ers need to fly in Albert, and then line up the scores of naysayers who questioned whether the team had a running game. Albert could stare them down and then issue his resounding, "Yess!"

The team wouldn't have to go far to find doubters. Some reside in its own locker room. Players themselves were curious about who would emerge as the starting running back in training camp.

There was a perceived dearth at the position following the free-agent flight of Ricky Watters, who took his 2,840 yards rushing over three seasons and his receiving abilities (66 catches in 1994) to the Eagles. And he wasn't the only running back who left. Marc Logan and Dexter Carter also took the free-agent road.

That left William "Bar None" Floyd, Adam Walker and Derek Loville. Walker has been cut more times than Edward Scissorhands. Loville has been released twice in his career, once by the 49ers.

Loville was the nominal starter in training camp, and then the 49ers brought in waves of players to take a run at his job. High-profile men Derrick Moore, Ricky Ervins and Marion Butts were all signed.

ERVINS WAS THE ONLY one who survived the final cut and Loville proved himself worthy of being the starter without question.

"During training camp he demonstrated he was the starter," Coach George Seifert said. "It wasn't just the fact he had been here before. He really was the best player, so we're going to use him. There was talk of a committee of running backs. But right now, this seems to be the thing to do."

The 49ers tried the "running back by committee" after Roger Craig went to the Raiders as a Plan B free agent following the 1990 season. The team then went with a combination of Carter and Keith Henderson



Derek Loville

at running back, with mixed results.

Carter was a runner with a lot of speed who was restricted by a lack of size. Henderson was 230-pound talent who had trouble keeping his affairs in order. He once had his car repossessed in the club's parking lot and had a lot of trouble showing up on time. As the saying goes, Henderson was a million dollar talent with a 10 cent head.

RIVALS STARTED-LOADING up to stop the pass because the running game posed little threat. The Niners saw foes settle into nickel defenses for entire games.

The 49ers finished 10-6 in '91 and missed the playoffs for the first time in a decade. Many feared the team was going to suffer the same fate this season. But Loville, Floyd and the offensive line has waylaid those fears for now. After four games Loville had 356 total yards, which had him just behind Barry Sanders, Emmitt Smith and Watters among running backs.

Two teams have tried to attack the 49ers with a nickel defense this season. The Falcons were forced out of the defense by the effective running game, and the Niners went on to demolish them 41-10. The Patriots stuck with their nickel defense and suffered a 28-3 loss.

The 'greatest concern was losing Watters' receiving abilities out of the backfield. Seifert called Watters the best running back he had ever seen as a receiver. There was even talk by Seifert himself of employing more three-wide receiver sets to make up the 719 yards Watters had receiving last year.

Loville and Floyd have more than kept pace. After four games they each had hauled in 24 passes. If they maintain their current levels both would finish with 96 receptions, breaking Roger Craig's team record of 92 catches by a running back.

LOVILLE HAS BEEN the more effective of the two. Through five games in the pre-season and four regular-season tilts he has not dropped a pass or fumbled. But it was Loville's diving attempt to snag a pass against the Patriots that caught the

fans' attention.

Steve Young was pressured and quickly tossed a pass towards Loville in the flat. Loville made an all-out lunge, gathered the ball but lost it once he hit the ground. Loville later called it a drop, but it would have been a tremendous grab had he held on.

Watters felt he was getting too many passes and not enough rushing opportunities. That's one reason he took the offer to go to the Eagles. Loville feels completely different.

"IT GIVES YOU a chance to be more of the complete package," he said. "I'm more of a complete player than I ever was. In college (the University of Oregon, where Loville holds the career rushing record) it was, 'OK, we need 8 yards. Let's give it to Derek on a sweep.' Now I get the chance to run and catch."

With 8 yards to go the 49ers have a myriad of options. With 3 yards to go, Young is apt to call Loville's number.

"If you need 3 yards, (Loville) will get 3 yards and a first down," Young said. "It's great."

Young enjoys watching Loville burst through the hole.

"I couldn't even think of doing the things that he does."

Not a bad compliment from a guy who could probably be a running back in the NFL if he didn't routinely lead the league in passing.

The 1995 Niners might even be more 'a running threat than last year because of the increasing presence of Floyd. He didn't start until the fifth game of the '94 season, and most of calls went to Watters that year, anyway.

Floyd had 30 carries in the first four games and was averaging 4.7 yards per

carry. It was the most opportunities by a Niners fullback after four games since Tom Rathman had 31 carries in 1988.

WHAT'S EVEN MORE impressive is both players have been productive despite a constantly shifting offensive line. The 49ers had three different line setups in the first four games.

Injuries sidelined Harris Barton for the first three games and guard Derrick Deese for Games 3 and 4. Last year the 49ers had injuries on the line early, and Watters saw his yards-per-carry average plunge to 3.1 through the first four games. Loville maintained a 3.9 yards-per-carry average after four games.



William Floyd

It means the running game will probably improve as the line gets healthy and Loville and Floyd get used to each other.

"I can see on certain plays how he's going to handle linebackers," Loville said of Floyd. "I'm starting to get a feel for him."

Loville, at 205 pounds, has to do more than most running backs to maintain his edge during the season.

"Derek is a guy who is going to go in the weight room three times a week," running backs coach Carl Jackson said. "He realizes he isn't the biggest guy in the world. You can lift during the off-season, but during the season you lose your strength, and he realized you can't afford to do that."

Football is seven days a week for Loville. One of his workout times falls on his day off, which is usually on Tuesday, two days after the game. That's when players are most sore, because it takes a day for bruises to come to the surface. It can make working out painful.

"HE'S A TALENTED, strong, determined football player," Seifert said.

Loville proved it against the Lions on Sept. 25. In the third quarter, with the 49ers facing third-and-goal from the 1-yard line, Loville was sent off tackle. He ran smack into 240-pound linebacker Mike Johnson. Defensive end Shane Bonham (265) joined Johnson.

Loville kept his legs driving and carried both players into the end zone for the score. Undoubtedly, if Marv Albert was providing the play by play, he would have blurted, "YESSS!"



Carl Jackson might be one of the hardest working guys in the coaching business.

THE 49ERS' running backs coach found his work cut out for him after watching Ricky Watters, Dexter Carter and Marc Logan all flee down the free-agency super highway. It meant Jack-

JACKSON TUTORS EAGER YOUNG MINDS

son had to indoctrinate several new players in the 49ers' complicated offense. His first two pupils were former Lions backup Derrick Moore and free agent Anthony Lynn.

"WHEN YOU HAVE a lot of veterans who've been around you don't really have to watch them on every snap," Jackson said. "But when you have a lot new guys every week, we were (watching them). We got Derrick Moore in March and we went out and worked every day. Then we'd get on the chalkboard."

Moore never caught on well enough to justify his unrestricted free agency salary. He was released. Lynn impressed Jackson and made the club. While some make it and others don't, Jackson, of course, must coach them all.

Jackson had the dual task of teaching the system and making sure young players learned the finer points of the game, like tucking the ball away.

"Those things come naturally to a guy who has been around two or three years, and I don't have to scream as much," Jackson said.

But youngsters like William Floyd, Derek Loville, Lynn and Jamal Willis are learning. Just ask offensive coordinator Marc Trestman.

"MARC WOULD LAUGH at me and say, 'I don't hear you screaming as much anymore. I guess we must be playing a little bit better.'"

Thanks to coaches like Jackson, the 49ers' running game hasn't missed a beat despite losing Pro Bowler Ricky Watters.

—Kevin Lynch



DICK
DRAPER

Brent Jones-style running. It's an oxymoron. It doesn't compute. The 49ers' tight end ambling downfield seems anathema to athletics, a contradiction in human anatomy. The big (6-4, 230) man's legs churn with a furious — and curious — motion,

but the rest of him seems to be running in place.

He's going nowhere slow, but somehow, some way, getting there fast.

"CRAZY LEGS," Coach George Seifert calls the three-time Pro Bowler.

Ungainly Jones is, but the word inside that word — gain — typifies this 32-year-old's personal duel with the NFL's best defenders. Every ounce of his physical being might seem to have a mind of its own and go in different directions simultaneously, but Jones has become an unstoppable force.

Plodding? Maybe. But, like a rig with 20 gears and 18 wheels, once his avoirdupois get rolling and his radar brain is calculating defenses on the run you can see why he's caught at least one pass in nearly 50 straight regular-season games and is rated the best Niners tight end ever.

Deception. That's what makes this man tick when the safeties tick. He fools them just like he fools everybody else. There's no way this herky-jerky style can consistently make big plays. But he does.

Jones even chides himself for his graceless-on-the-

surface performances.

"My style pretty much speaks for itself," said the nine-year veteran who has averaged 47 catches over his career, most of them double-figure gainers.

"THE BEST THING is nobody knows where I'm going. Sometimes I don't. I think it doesn't look like I'm as fast as I am. I'm faster than people believe."

Especially when quarterback Steve Young calls his favorite play, the one for which Jones relentlessly nags, begs and pleads every week, in nearly every huddle. Doesn't matter the score, the opposition, the defensive scheme, the barometric pressure or phase of the moon.

The Pipe. You've seen it — where Jones lopes semi-awkwardly toward the field's center for about 12 or 15 yards, the linebackers and safeties like ammo-loaded jetfighters swooping around a lumbering B-52. Easy target. Easy kill.

There Jones goes, though, fooling them again with his crazy legs, his "loco" motion. Remember his career-best 69-yard touchdown catch at Washington last season? Yep. The Pipe was open.

He calls it his bread-and-butter play. It's how he earns his living, just like Jerry Rice's inevitable slant patterns.

"We've perfected it over the years," says Jones of that cliché, seen-it-a-hundred-times route and the on-time offerings of Young. "When you play with somebody so long you know the ins and outs that make it a successful play."

JONES IS NEARING 4,000 NFL yards, and you can bet The Pipe is the reason.

"I live for it," Jones admits. "It's been nine years and that's all I talk about. I bug Steve every week."

The tight end is even keeping score on how many times The Pipe route is open and Young connects.

"My record is intact so far," Young said. "But the problem is that's according to him. Have you ever seen him covered? He hasn't."

Why the play makes linebackers' spit run dry is more than the football spiraling from point A to point B, for Jones is surprisingly agile and elusive, even with legs askew and arms pumping.

Young says that's the key. Jones scans the defenses like a speed reader and varies his runs down the pipe, often faking to the outside to suck the linebackers away, then, at the last second, bending it just in time. Or vice versa. Ball meets hands. Bingo. First down.

Jones is like a long-range artillery piece camouflaged by the blatant and deadly mortar threats from Rice and fellow receiver John Taylor. He'll bide his time, wait his turn, then strike.

NOT THAT JONES and The Pipe are untouchables. Far from it. There are price tags hanging from various parts of his body, whether the play works or not. A bruise here, a welt there, a scrape or eyeballs-ripped-from-their-moorings jolt the next step away.

So what, says Jones. He'll keep on blocking in Pro-Bowl fashion but continue to push vociferously in the huddle, letting Young and offensive coordinator Marc Trestman know when The Pipe is open. Forget those cute little curl routes.

"It's fun to run because you know you're going to get an opportunity," Jones says. "But at the same time you know you're going to get drilled."

Even if Jones is zigging when his own body tells him to zag.

ONE on ONE

with ALFRED WILLIAMS

Elephant linebacker Alfred Williams had five passes defended after four games, second-most of the team. Reporters talked to Williams about his ability to knock down the ball, his new weight and his transition to the 49ers from his old club, the Bengals.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A KNACK FOR KNOCKING DOWN THE BALL? YOU ALMOST LEAD THE TEAM IN PASSES DEFENSED. HAS THAT BEEN A CAREER-LONG THING?

A. Not really. I haven't had success like this, really, since I was rushing the passer in college. I was getting really close and seeing he was ready to throw and I would just throw my hands up. You can't do very much then. The only thing you can do then is take a roughing-the-passer penalty. Nobody wants to give them a fresh set of downs. I just want drive-stoppers.

Q. IS KNOCKING DOWN THE BALL THE NEXT BEST THING TO A SACK?

A. I think so. I take that back. I'll take a tackle for a loss.

Q. DOES YOUR HEIGHT (6-6) HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT?

A. I don't know. Right now I'm as trim as I've been since I've been in the NFL. My body fat is as low as

it has ever been. My weight is down (from 265 to 240). I'm just a changed man, since my rookie season to my last year with the Bengals. I feel twice as explosive.

Q. IS (LOSING WEIGHT) SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO DO ON YOUR OWN?

A. Dwaine Board (defensive line coach) told me I didn't have to be as heavy as I was in Cincinnati. He said whatever you have to do to be able to run all day. If I dropped a little weight maybe I could run all day. The length of a play sometimes might be seven seconds, and that's a long time for a defensive lineman. I might be in pass coverage, or I might be rushing the passer. I think it has helped me. It has gotten me to believe that since I'm smaller maybe I'm quicker.

Q. YOUR CONTRACT KICKS IN NICELY ONCE YOU GET 10 SACKS. DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET THERE?

A. I do. I didn't have a sack last year until about the fifth game when I was with the Bengals. Things happen. I would like to say it's what the other teams have done to protect. I have traditionally been a slow starter, but right now I feel better than I have at any time in my career. Believe it or not, the Bengals have started 3-0. But I did not think at that time that I contributed much to the team. But here I think I bring something to the team.

Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER ADJUSTING TO THIS SCHEME?

A. I thought I was just going to be a pass rusher — just get upfield. For the most part I am. But (defensive coordinator) Pete (Carroll) has done some great things. We've gotten two coverage sacks (because I was) dropping (in pass coverage).

Q. DO YOU MIND DROPPING INTO COVERAGE?

A. Not at all. It gets your blood going. It gets you into the game.

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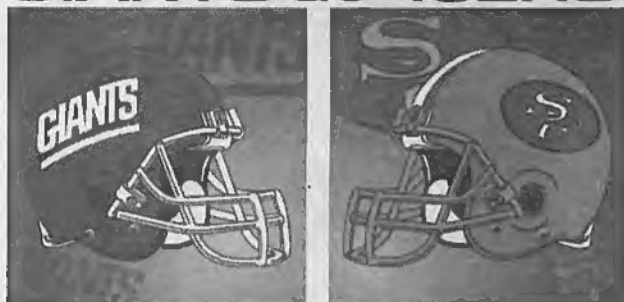
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GIANTS at 49ERS



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49ERS

Hold NFC-leading 4-1 record

GIANTS

Fall to 1-4

STEVE YOUNG

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DAVE BROWN

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49ERS

109-33 rushing advantage

RODNEY HAMPTON

13 yards on 12 carries

KEN NORTON JR

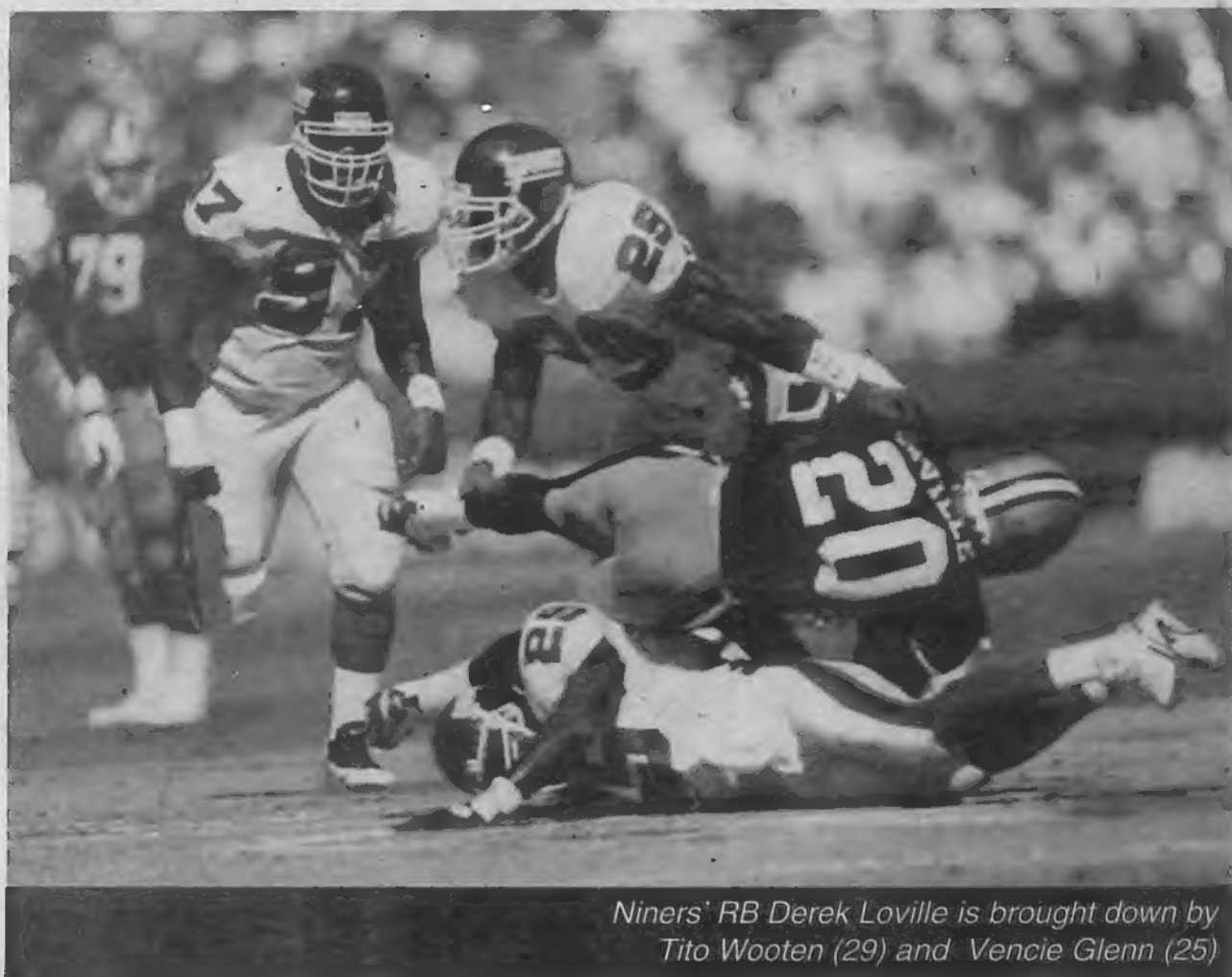
46-yard interception return

TIM McDONALD

Blocks field goal attempt

OLIVER BARNETT

First sack of the season



Niners' RB Derek Loville is brought down by Tito Wooten (29) and Vencie Glenn (25)

By Kevin Lynch

George Seifert strode through the locker room following the 49ers' 20-6 victory over the Giants last Sunday.

"OK everybody," Seifert said. "Wind sprints!"

The coach was, of course, joking. Each 49ers player looked like he'd climbed into the ring with 45 Mike Tyson's. Some stared blankly in an exhausted state. Others crammed into the tiny trainer's room wrapped in ice bags and Ace bandages. In other words, the bye week couldn't be coming at a better time.

"IF YOU HAVE TO PICK a time to have a bye, a good time would be after a Giants game," said safety Merton Hanks, who suffered a bruised thigh.

He was just one of the players who appeared on the team's official and unofficial injury lists. The others? Steve Young, Jerry Rice, Derek Loville, Nate Singleton, Eric Davis, Tim McDonald, Adam Walker, Bryant Young, Derrick Deese and Lindsay McLean.

The last name on that list isn't that of a player, and he isn't injured. He's the trainer and he'll probably drop from exhaustion after dealing with so many damaged Niners.

The 49ers paid the price, but they won. They ran their record to 4-1, which puts them in a tie with the Rams atop the NFC West. The 49ers are also in a tie with the Cowboys for the best record in the NFC.

This victory didn't come easily. The Giants and 49ers have had some monumental games in the last decade, and

while the Giants haven't maintained their playoff edge of late, they've kept up their bruising style on both offense and defense.

The Giants' defense threw the 49ers off their timing by coming out in a nickel (five defensive backs) formation. It was the third time the 49ers have faced such a scheme this season. Teams are daring the 49ers to run, and run they did.

The 49ers ran 10 times on their first 17 plays, with mixed success.

Their first drive got them a field goal and a 3-3 tie.

The Niners, realizing they could run, proceeded to grind out another long drive, punctuated by William Floyd's 1-yard touchdown plunge. Just for the sake of variety the 49ers put together a seven-play 63-yard drive just before the first half ended for a 17-3 lead.

THE 49ERS' TOP-RANKED rushing defense bottled up the potent Giants rushing game, and that was all they needed. The 49ers weren't sure they would be able to maintain their run-stuffing in this game. This was the first game this year without defensive tackle Bryant Young, who's out with a sprained ankle.

The Niners still limited the Giants to just 33 yards on 18 carries. The Giants are a team that had rushed for 208 yards the week before, with Rodney Hampton gaining 149. Hampton was held to 13 yards on 12 carries on Sunday before breaking his right hand in the fourth quarter.

W20-6

"Anytime you hold the Giants to (fewer than) 50 rushing yards, you know you're doing a good job," Hanks said.

Junior Bryant did an excellent job filling in for Young. Bryant lead all linemen with three tackles.

"I felt they were going to challenge me," Bryant said.

ONCE BRYANT PROVED he wasn't a weak link the Giants simply ran their regular offense. With the Niners up 17-3 at the half, linebacker Ken Norton made sure the Giants weren't going to climb back. On their first drive in the second half, Norton tipped quarterback Dave Brown's pass to himself, then reverted back to his days at Westchester High School in Los Angeles, where he was a running back, and raced 46 yards down the sideline to set up a 46-yard field goal by Doug Brien. It was the first turnover the 49ers forced in six quarters.

The game, while a rough one, was probably hardest on Rice, who was injured after stretching for a high pass from Young. He was dumped by cornerback Phillippi Sparks and landed on his side. Rice stayed down for a moment as the 65,536 in attendance fell dumb.

Rice suffered a concussion. When he finally shook loose the cobwebs, the crowd burst into a chant of "Jerry, Jerry."

"I could've jumped up right away," Rice said, "but I stayed down as a precaution. I'm sure my wife was pretty scared. The crowd chanting motivated me."

WORTH NOTING

SURPRISE INACTIVE: CB Eric Davis appeared on the inactive list just before the game. He suffered a right shoulder bruise Monday night in the game against the Lions. The other inactives were WR Mike Caldwell, G Derrick Deese, G Tim Hanshaw, DT Bryant Young, RB Ricky Ervins and WR Chris Thomas.

LIVING UP TO THE NAME: It looked like it might be another tough outing for the special teams. P Tommy Thompson opened up with 14-yard punt. But they turned it around in a hurry. Doug Brien threaded a 40-yard field goal that was taken away because of a Giants penalty the Niners accepted. He later converted a 22-yard field goal on the same drive.

DROUGHT ENDED: SS Tim McDonald blocked a field goal attempt, the first blocked kick by the 49ers since Charles Haley blocked a field goal attempt on Sept. 16, 1990, against the Redskins.

STOKES APPEARS: Rookie WR J.J. Stokes, the Niners' first-round draft choice, made his first NF appearance Sunday. He entered the game in the quarter and caught a 14-yard pass. Because of a shoulder separation suffered by WR Nate Singleton, Stokes might be playing a lot more in the near future. "I'm happy to be back," said Stokes, who suffered a broken hand Aug. 17. "I felt good making my first catch."

DEFENSIVE UPS AND DOWNS: When Giants rookie RB Tyrone Wheatley busted for a 12-yard run, it was the first the 49ers' defense had allowed a run of over 9 yards. But the defense had a third-down conversion rate of 45 percent, which ranked them 23rd in the league.

NOTES: The 49ers had outscored teams coached by Dan Reeves 119-19 over the last three meetings ... WR Jerry Rice needs 152 yards to become the NFL all-time leader in receiving yards ... Rice needs 73 catches to overcome Art Monk as the all-time receptions leader. Rice has caught passes in 149 straight games, the fourth-longest streak in NFL history ... For the third week in a row the 49ers failed to score first ... The 49ers are now 30-9 in games following Monday night appearances, and have won 23 of 25 short-week games since 1985 ... Steve Young added to his team record of consecutive games in which one TD pass was thrown. He's now thrown a TD pass in 16 straight games ... Giants RB Herschel Walker became only the sixth player in NFL history to top 15,000 all-purpose yards. He did it on a kickoff return in the second quarter ... The 49ers are now 14-19 in games in which they score 21 points or fewer since George Seifert has been head coach.

The Giants have failed to score a touchdown in their last four trips to Candlestick Park and have lost three of four of those games, the victory was in the 1990 NFC title game ... LB Ken Norton's interception was the second of his career. The first came in 1993 against the Colts when Norton was with the Cowboys.

Rice came back and caught a 16-yard touchdown pass later in the quarter. He stayed in for the entire game and led the club with seven catches for 71 yards.

The same, unfortunately, could not be said for Singleton. He suffered a shoulder separation and a cracked clavicle when he was belted by strong safety Jesse Campbell. The injury is likely to keep him out of the game against the Colts next week.

Loville also didn't return after bruising his thigh in the second quarter. Loville is expected to return for the Colts game.

IT APPEARS THE special teams got healthy in this game. Brien converted a 40-yard field goal that was taken off the board when the 49ers accepted a defensive holding call on the play.

"I feel like I'm 2-for-2, and that I've got a clean slate," Brien said.

Brien missed a 40-yarder with six seconds left in the 49ers' 27-24 loss to the Lions in Week 4. It was his fourth miss of the season.

The 49ers also blocked a field goal for the first time in five seasons. McDonald came flying in to swat away a 45-yard attempt by Brad Daluiso.

"I made three or four of those (with the Cardinals)," McDonald said about his six seasons with that club. "Dennis Brown made the block to get me there. The credit should go to him."

The credit for a fine early season goes to the 49ers. Now they can only hope a week of rest will get them adequately healthy for the next 11 games.

INJURY AFFECTS YOUNG

Quarterback Steve Young's statistics have lost their usual luster. For example, in the Giants game he completed 26 passes in 40 attempts for 202 yards, a touchdown and no interceptions.

YOUNG HAS BEEN nursing a shoulder injury since the second game of the regular season, when he pummeled by Falcons linebacker Jesse Tuggle.

"I just try to baby it during the week," he said. "But I'm not as accurate."

Wide receiver Jerry Rice can attest. He had to leap for a high pass in the second quarter, and wound up with a concussion.

"I KNOW HE has been struggling," Steve Wallace said. "A couple years ago, he had a broken thumb, and he never said anything. He just played."

Let's hope that, with a little rest, Young can live up to his unreal standard. Despite the injury, Young went into the game as the leading passer in the league.

—Kevin Lynch

HOW THEY SCORED

FIRST QUARTER

GIANTS — Brad Daluiso 37-yard field goal. Drive: 7 plays, 24 yards. Time of possession: 2:22. Time remaining: 11:34. Key plays: Tommy Thompson 14 punt; Aaron Pierce 16 pass from Dave Brown. **GIANTS 3-0.**

49ERS — Doug Brien 22-yard field goal. Drive: 17 plays, 76 yards. Time of possession: 8:29. Time remaining: 3:05. Key plays: Jerry Rice 14 pass from Steve Young; Young 11 run. **TIED 3-3.**

SECOND QUARTER

49ERS — William Floyd 1-yard run (Brien kick). Drive: 12 plays, 64 yards. Time of possession: 6:31. Time remaining: 1:57. Key play: Derek Loville 15 pass from Young on third-and-11. **49ERS 10-3.**

49ERS — Rice 15-yard pass from Young (Brien kick). Drive: 7 plays, 63 yards. Time of possession: :58. Time remaining: 26. Key play: Nate Singleton 23 pass from Young. **49ERS 17-3.**

THIRD QUARTER

49ERS — Brien 46-yard field goal. Drive: 4 plays, minus-5 yards. Time of possession: 2:10. Time remaining: 7:59. Key play: Ken Norton 46 interception return. **49ERS 20-3.**

GIANTS — Daluiso 32-yard field goal. Drive: 13 plays, 57 yards. Time of possession: 7:01. Time remaining: :58. Key play: Howard Cross 25 pass from Brown. **49ERS 20-6.**

FOGHORN PRESS PRESENTS



PLAYER OF THE GAME

Ken Norton Jr.

Ken Norton Jr. was named Player of the Game. He had an interception, a pass defended and five tackles.

ENTER

The 49 Years of 49ers FAN CONTEST

Only 49 fans will be selected as part of the *49 Years of 49ers All-Star Fan Line-Up*. If you know someone who qualifies as a true 49er fanatic, or if that person is you, enter this contest.

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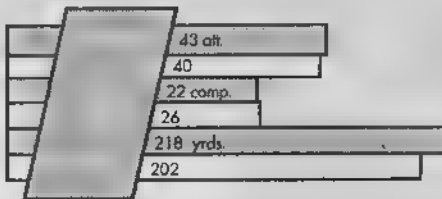
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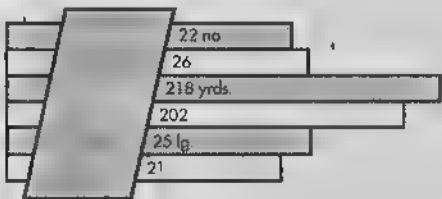
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GAME STATS

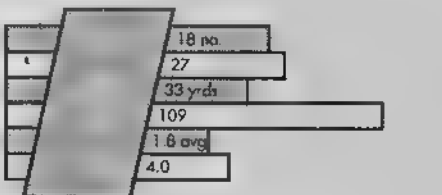
PASSING	Att	Comp	Yds	Sks/Yds	TD	Lg	Int
Giants							
Brown	43	22	218	2/14	0	25	1
Total	43	22	218	2/14	0	25	1
49ers							
Young	40	26	202	0/0	1	21	0
Total	40	26	202	0/0	1	21	0



RECEIVING	No	Yds	Lg	TD
Giants				
Walker	5	26	12	0
Calloway	4	46	21	0
Pierce	4	45	16	0
Sherrard	4	45	12	0
Cross	3	42	25	0
Wheatley	2	14	8	0
Totals	22	218	25	0
49ers				
Rice	7	71	16	1
Loville	4	30	15	0
Jones	4	27	10	0
Floyd	4	15	6	0
Singleton	2	32	21	0
Willis	2	4	5	0
Stokes	1	14	14	0
Taylor	1	6	6	0
Popson	1	3	3	0
Totals	26	202	21	1



RUSHING	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Giants					
Wheatley	5	16	3.2	12	0
Hampton	12	13	1.1	7	0
Walker	1	4	4.0	4	0
Total	18	33	1.8	12	0
49ers					
Loville	9	42	4.7	12	0
Young	5	32	6.4	13	0
Floyd	12	29	2.4	8	1
Lynn	1	6	6.0	6	0
Total	27	109	4.0	13	1



INTERCEPTIONS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
Giants				
None	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
49ers				
Norton	1	46	46	0
Total	1	46	46	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No	Yds	Lg	TD
Giants				
Walker	3	46	21	0
Wheatley	2	36	22	0
Total	5	82	22	0
49ers				
Willis	1	29	29	0
Dalman	1	12	12	0
Total	2	41	29	0

PUNTING	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
Giants						
Horan	3	109	36.3	0	2	47
Total	3	109	36.3	0	2	47
49ers						
Thompson	3	103	34.3	0	2	47
Total	3	103	34.3	0	2	47

PUNT RETURNS	No	FC	Yds	Lg	TD
Giants					
Marshall	0	1	0	0	0
Total	0	1	0	0	0
49ers					
Taylor	1	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	0	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS	Giants	49ers
Total First Downs	17	23
By Rushing	1	8
By Passing	8	15
By Penalty	8	2
Third Down Efficiency	7-15-47%	8-15-53%
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1-00%	0-0-00%
Total Net Yards	237	311
Total Offensive Plays	63	67
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	3.8	4.6
Net Yards Rushing	33	109
Total Rushing Plays	18	27
Avg. Gain Per Rushing Play	1.8	4.0
Net Yards Passing	204	202
Times Thrown/Yards Lost	2/14	0/0
Gross Yards Passing	218	202
Pass Att - Comp - Int	43-22-1	40-26-0
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	4.5	5.1
Punts/Average	3-36.3	3-34.3
Had Blocked	0	0
Yards on Punt Returns	0	0
Yards on Kickoff Returns	82	41
Yards on Interception Returns	0	46
Penalties/Yards	4/28	5/45
Fumbles/Lost	2/0	2/1
Touchdowns	0	2
Rushing	0	1
Passing	0	1
Returns	0	0
Extra points Made/Attempted	0/0	2/2
Kicking Made/Attempts	0/0	2/2
Passing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Rushing Made/Attempts	0/0	0/0
Field Goals Made/Attempted	2/3	2/2
Time of Possession	28:09	31:51

SEASON STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	49ers	Opponents
Total First Downs	121	88
By Rushing	45	6
By Passing	73	80
By Penalty	3	2
Third Down Made/Att.	32/66	34/75
Third Down Efficiency	48.5	45.3
Fourth Down Made/Att.	6/7	3/9
Fourth Down Efficiency	85.7	33.3
Total Net Yards	2015	1400
Avg. Per Game	403	280
Total Offensive Plays	346	327
Avg. Gain Per Offensive Play	5.8	4.3
Net Yards Rushing	579	190
Avg. Per Game	117.8	38.0
Total Rushing Plays	136	92
Net Yards Passing	1426	1210
Avg. Per Game	285.2	242.0
Sacks/Yards Lost	9/48	12/69
Gross Yards Passing	1474	1279
Att./Comp.	201/135	223/122
Pct. of Completions	67.2	54.7
Had Intercepted	4	8
Punts/Average	15/36.6	18/41.6
Penalties/Yards	30/211	21/131
Fumbles/Lost	7/3	6/2
Touchdowns	17	6
Rushing	4	1
Passing	11	4
Returns	2	1

SCORING								
Name	TDR	TDP	TDR	PAT	FG	S	2pt	TP
Rice	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	36
Brien	0	0	0	17	6	0	0	35
Loville	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	18
McDonald	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
Floyd	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	12
Young	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Jones	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Singleton	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Taylor	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	4	11	2	17	6	0	0	137
Opp. Total	1	4	1	3	9	0	1	68

RECEIVING					
Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Rice	41	593	14.4	54	6
Floyd	28	220	7.9	23	1
Loville	27	299	7.4	17	1
Jones	17	188	11.1	23	1
Taylor	9	136	15.1	36	1
Singleton	8	108	13.5	23	1
Willis	2	4	2.0	5	0
Popson	2	11	5.5	8	0
Stokes	1	14	14.0	14	0
Total	135	1474	10.9	54	11
Opp. Total	122	1279	10.5	37	4

RUSHING						
Name	Att	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD	
Loville	57	228	4.0	27	2	
Floyd	42	170	4.0	23	1	
Young	27	163	6.0	29	1	
Willis	3	10	3.3	6	0	
Rice	1	5	5.0	5	0	
Lynn	1	5	5.0	5	0	
Walker	1	2	2.0	2	0	
Grbac	3	0	0.0	1	0	
Total	136	589	4.3	29	4	
Opp. Total	92	190	2.1	12	1	

PASSING												
Name	Att	Comp	Yds	Pct	Avg/Att	TD	%TD	Int	%Int	Lg	Lost/Att	
Young	193	130	1425	67.4	7.3	11	5.7	3	1.6	54	9/48	
Grbac,	8	5	49	62.5	6.1	0	0.0	1	12.5	17	0/0	
Total	201	135	1474	67.1	7.3	11	5.5	4	2.0	54	9/48	
Opp. Total	223	122	1279	57.4	5.7	4	1.7	8	3.6	37	12/69	

FIELD GOALS						
Name	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Brien	0/0	4/4	0/1	2/5	0/0	6/10
Total	0/0	4/4	0/1	2/5	0/0	6/10
Opp. Total	1/1	1/1	5/6	1/2	1/1	9/11

PUNTING						
Name	No	Yds	Avg	TB	In20	Lg
Thompson	15	549	36.6	2	3	48
Total	15	549	36.6	2	3	48
Opp. Total	18	749	41.6	2	10	54

PUNT RETURNS						
Name	No	FC	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Singleton	5	1	27	5.4	19	0
Taylor	2	3	11	5.5	11	0
Total	7	4	38	5.4	19	0
Opp. Total	3	8	7	2.3	3	0

KICKOFF RETURNS					
Name	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Willis	6	154	25.7	38	0
Warren	4	87	18.8	21	0
Caldwell	2	40	20.0	20	0
Welker	1	17	17.0	17	0
Dalman	1	12	12.0	12	0
Total	14	290	20.7	38	0
Opp. Total	27	564	20.5	35	0

Sacks: B. Young (3); Woodall (2); Stubblefield (2); Drakeford (1); Williams (1); Davis (1); Jackson (1); Barnett (1)

Special Teams Tackles: Goss (4); Dodge (4); Mitchell (3); Walker (3); Lynn (3); Thomas (2); Peterson (2); Fountaine (2); Cook (1); Caldwell (1); Brandon (1); Popson (1); Carolan (1); Hall (1); Williams (1)

Misc. Tackles: Loville (2); Rice (1)

INTERCEPTIONS			
Name	No	Yds	Avg
McDonald	2	65	32.5
Drakeford	2	4	2.0
Hanks	2	8	4.0
Norton	1	46	46.0
Woodall	1	0	0.0
Total	8	122	15.5
Opp. Total	4	51	12.8

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS			
Name	Tackles	Assists	Total
Pope	25	2	27
McDonald	23	4	27
Norton	21	6	27
Woodall	20	3	23
Hanks	16	4	20
Davis	15	2	17
Drakeford	15	0	15
Plummer	13	2	15
Brown	12	1	13
B. Young	9	2	11
Williams	8	1	9
Stubblefield	6	3	9
Jackson	4	3	7
Dodge	6	0	6
Bryant	3	0	3
Barnett	2	0	2
Brandon	1	0	1
Cook	1	0	1

1995

NFL SCHEDULE

STANDINGS

AFC

East	W	L	PF	PA
Dolphins	4	0	121	50
Bills	2	1	58	45
Colts	2	2	83	96
Patriots	1	3	40	92
Jets	1	4	78	149

Cent.

Cent.	W	L	PF	PA
Browns	3	1	95	47
Steelers	3	2	122	83
Bengals	2	3	120	126
Oilers	2	3	88	96
Jaguars	1	4	61	115

West

West	W	L	PF	PA
Chiefs	4	1	118	82
Raiders	4	1	149	65
Chargers	3	2	81	85
Seahawks	2	2	71	79
Broncos	2	3	97	113

NFC

East	W	L	PF	PA
Cowboys	4	1	146	85
Eagles	2	3	90	125
Redskins	2	3	99	102
Cardinals	1	4	69	133
Giants	1	4	74	118

Cent.

Cent.	W	L	PF	PA
Packers	3	1	79	61
Buccaneers	3	2	67	72
Bears	2	2	108	81
Vikings	2	2	95	88
Lions	1	3	74	87

West

West	W	L	PF	PA
49ers	4	1	137	68
Falcons	4	1	107	105
Rams	4	1	117	86
Panthers	0	4	52	105
Saints	0	5	98	128

American Football Conference

BILLS 2-1 Sept. 3 at Denver 7-22 Sept. 10 Carolina 31-9 Sept. 17 Indianapolis 20-14 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 2 at Cleveland Oct. 8 N.Y. Jets Oct. 15 Seattle Oct. 23 at New England Oct. 29 at Miami Nov. 5 at Indianapolis Nov. 12 Atlanta Nov. 19 at N.Y. Jets Nov. 26 New England Dec. 3 at San Francisco Dec. 10 at St. Louis Dec. 17 Miami Dec. 24 Houston	COLTS 2-2 Sept. 3 Cincinnati 21-24 O.T. Sept. 10 at N.Y. Jets 27-24 D.T. Sept. 17 at Buffalo 14-20 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 1 St. Louis 21-18 Oct. 8 at Miami Oct. 15 San Francisco Oct. 22 at L.A. Raiders Oct. 29 N.Y. Jets Nov. 5 Buffalo Nov. 12 at New Orleans Nov. 19 at New England Nov. 26 Miami Dec. 3 Carolina Dec. 10 at Jacksonville Dec. 17 San Diego Dec. 23 New England	DOLPHINS 4-0 Sept. 3 N.Y. Jets 52-14 Sept. 10 at New England 20-3 Sept. 17 Pittsburgh 23-10 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 1 at Cincinnati Oct. 8 Indianapolis Oct. 15 at New Orleans Oct. 22 at N.Y. Jets Oct. 29 Buffalo Nov. 5 at San Diego Nov. 12 New England Nov. 19 San Francisco Nov. 26 at Indianapolis Dec. 3 Atlanta Dec. 10 Kansas City Dec. 17 at Houston Dec. 24 at St. Louis	JETS 1-4 Sept. 3 at Miami 14-52 Sept. 10 Indianapolis 24-27 O.T. Sept. 17 Jacksonville 27-10 Sept. 24 at Atlanta 3-13 Oct. 1 L.A. Raiders 10-47 Oct. 8 at Buffalo Oct. 15 at Carolina Oct. 22 Miami Oct. 29 at Indianapolis Nov. 5 New England Nov. 12 OPEN Nov. 19 Buffalo Nov. 26 at Seattle Dec. 3 St. Louis Dec. 10 at New England Dec. 17 at Houston Dec. 24 New Orleans	PATRIOTS 1-3 Sept. 3 Cleveland 17-14 Sept. 10 Miami 3-20 Sept. 17 at San Francisco 3-28 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 1 at Atlanta 17-30 Oct. 8 Denver Oct. 15 at Kansas City Oct. 22 Buffalo Oct. 29 Carolina Nov. 5 at N.Y. Jets Nov. 12 at Miami Nov. 19 Indianapolis Nov. 26 at Buffalo Dec. 3 New Orleans Dec. 10 N.Y. Jets Dec. 16 at Pittsburgh Dec. 23 at Indianapolis
BENGALS 2-3 Sept. 3 at Indianapolis 24-21 O.T. Sept. 10 Jacksonville 24-17 Sept. 17 at Seattle 21-24 Sept. 24 Houston 28-38 Oct. 1 Miami 23-26 Oct. 8 at Tampa Bay Oct. 15 OPEN Oct. 22 at Pittsburgh Oct. 29 Cleveland Nov. 5 L.A. Raiders Nov. 12 at Houston Nov. 19 Pittsburgh Nov. 26 at Jacksonville Dec. 3 at Green Bay Dec. 10 Chicago Dec. 17 at Cleveland Dec. 24 Minnesota	BROWNS 3-1 Sept. 3 at New England 14-17 Sept. 10 Tampa Bay 22-6 Sept. 17 at Houston 14-7 Sept. 24 Kansas City 35-17 Oct. 1 Buffalo Oct. 8 at Detroit Oct. 15 OPEN Oct. 22 Jacksonville Oct. 29 at Cincinnati Nov. 5 Houston Nov. 12 at Pittsburgh Nov. 19 Green Bay Nov. 26 Pittsburgh Dec. 3 at San Diego Dec. 10 at Minnesota Dec. 17 Cincinnati Dec. 24 at Jacksonville	JAGUARS 1-4 Sept. 3 Houston 3-10 Sept. 10 at Cincinnati 17-24 Sept. 17 at N.Y. Jets 10-27 Sept. 24 Green Bay 14-24 Oct. 1 at Houston 17-16 Oct. 8 Pittsburgh Oct. 15 Chicago Oct. 22 at Cleveland Oct. 29 at Pittsburgh Nov. 5 OPEN Nov. 12 Seattle Nov. 19 at Tampa Bay Nov. 26 Cincinnati Dec. 3 at Denver Dec. 10 Indianapolis Dec. 17 at Detroit Dec. 24 Cleveland	OILERS 2-3 Sept. 3 at Jacksonville 10-3 Sept. 10 Pittsburgh 17-34 Sept. 17 Cleveland 7-14 Sept. 24 at Cincinnati 38-28 Oct. 1 Jacksonville 16-17 Oct. 8 at Minnesota Oct. 15 OPEN Oct. 22 at Chicago Oct. 29 Tampa Bay Nov. 5 at Cleveland Nov. 12 Cincinnati Nov. 19 at Kansas City Nov. 26 Denver Dec. 3 at Pittsburgh Dec. 10 Detroit Dec. 17 N.Y. Jets Dec. 24 at Buffalo	STEELERS 3-2 Sept. 3 Detroit 23-20 Sept. 10 at Houston 34-17 Sept. 17 at Miami 10-23 Sept. 24 Minnesota 24-44 Oct. 1 San Diego 31-16 Oct. 8 at Jacksonville Oct. 15 OPEN Oct. 22 Cincinnati Oct. 29 Jacksonville Nov. 5 at Chicago Nov. 12 Cleveland Nov. 19 at Cincinnati Nov. 26 at Cleveland Dec. 3 Houston Dec. 10 at L.A. Raiders Dec. 16 New England Dec. 23 at Green Bay
BRONCOS 2-3 Sept. 3 Buffalo 22-7 Sept. 10 at Dallas 21-31 Sept. 17 Washington 38-31 Sept. 24 at San Diego 6-17 Oct. 1 at Seattle 10-27 Oct. 8 at New England Oct. 15 L.A. Raiders Oct. 22 Kansas City Oct. 29 OPEN Nov. 5 Arizona Nov. 12 at Philadelphia Nov. 19 San Diego Nov. 26 at Houston Dec. 3 Jacksonville Dec. 10 Seattle Dec. 17 at Kansas City Dec. 24 at L.A. Raiders	CHARGERS 3-2 Sept. 3 at L.A. Raiders 7-17 Sept. 10 Seattle 14-10 Sept. 17 at Philadelphia 27-21 Sept. 24 Denver 17-6 Oct. 1 at Pittsburgh 16-31 Oct. 8 at Kansas City Oct. 15 Dallas Oct. 22 at Seattle Oct. 29 OPEN Nov. 5 Miami Nov. 12 Kansas City Nov. 19 at Denver Nov. 27 L.A. Raiders Dec. 3 Cleveland Dec. 10 Arizona Dec. 17 at Indianapolis Dec. 23 at N.Y. Giants	CHIEFS 3-1 Sept. 3 at Seattle 34-10 Sept. 10 N.Y. Giants 20-17 O.T. Sept. 17 L.A. Raiders 23-17 O.T. Sept. 24 at Cleveland 17-35 Oct. 1 at Arizona 24-3 Oct. 8 San Diego Oct. 15 New England Oct. 22 at Denver Oct. 29 OPEN Nov. 5 Washington Nov. 12 at San Diego Nov. 19 Houston Nov. 23 at Dallas Dec. 3 at L.A. Raiders Dec. 10 at Miami Dec. 17 Denver Dec. 24 Seattle	RAIDERS 4-1 Sept. 3 San Diego 17-7 Sept. 10 at Washington 20-8 Sept. 17 at Kansas City 17-23 O.T. Sept. 24 Philadelphia 48-17 Oct. 1 at N.Y. Jets 47-10 Oct. 8 Seattle Oct. 15 at Denver Oct. 22 Indianapolis Oct. 29 OPEN Nov. 5 at Cincinnati Nov. 12 at N.Y. Giants Nov. 19 Dallas Nov. 27 at San Diego Dec. 3 Kansas City Dec. 10 Pittsburgh Dec. 17 at Seattle Dec. 24 Denver	SEAHAWKS 2-2 Sept. 3 Kansas City 10-34 Sept. 10 at San Diego 20-14 Sept. 17 Cincinnati 24-21 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 1 Denver 27-10 Oct. 8 at L.A. Raiders Oct. 15 at Buffalo Oct. 22 San Diego Oct. 29 at Arizona Nov. 5 N.Y. Giants Nov. 12 at Jacksonville Nov. 19 at Washington Nov. 26 N.Y. Jets Dec. 3 Philadelphia Dec. 10 at Denver Dec. 17 L.A. Raiders Dec. 24 at Kansas City

National Football Conference

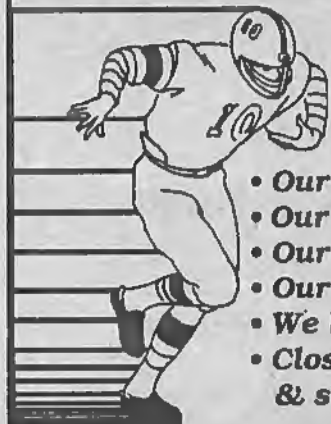
CARDINALS 1-4 Sept. 3 at Washington 7-27 Sept. 10 Philadelphia 19-31 Sept. 17 at Detroit 20-17 Sept. 24 at Dallas 20-34 Oct. 1 Kansas City 3-24 Oct. 8 at N.Y. Giants Oct. 15 Washington Oct. 22 OPEN Oct. 29 Seattle Nov. 5 at Denver Nov. 12 Minnesota Nov. 19 at Carolina Nov. 26 Atlanta Nov. 30 N.Y. Giants Dec. 3 at San Diego Dec. 10 at Philadelphia Dec. 17 Dallas	COWBOYS 4-1 Sept. 3 at N.Y. Giants 35-0 Sept. 10 Denver 31-21 Sept. 17 at Minnesota 23-17 O.T. Sept. 24 Arizona 34-20 Oct. 1 at Washington 23-27 Oct. 8 Green Bay Oct. 15 at San Diego Oct. 22 OPEN Oct. 29 at Atlanta Nov. 5 Philadelphia Nov. 12 San Francisco Nov. 19 at L.A. Raiders Nov. 26 Kansas City Dec. 3 Washington Dec. 10 at Philadelphia Dec. 17 N.Y. Giants Dec. 25 at Arizona	EAGLES 2-3 Sept. 3 Tampa Bay 6-21 Sept. 10 at Arizona 31-19 Sept. 17 at Green Bay 21-27 Sept. 24 at L.A. Raiders 17-48 Oct. 1 at New Orleans 10-15 Oct. 8 Washington Oct. 15 at N.Y. Giants Oct. 22 OPEN Oct. 29 St. Louis Nov. 5 at Dallas Nov. 12 Denver Nov. 19 N.Y. Giants Nov. 26 at Washington Dec. 3 at Seattle Dec. 10 Dallas Dec. 17 Arizona Dec. 24 at Chicago	GIANTS 1-4 Sept. 3 Dallas 0-36 Sept. 10 at Kansas City 17-20 O.T. Sept. 17 at Green Bay 6-14 Sept. 24 New Orleans 45-29 Oct. 1 at San Francisco 6-20 Oct. 8 Arizona Oct. 15 Philadelphia Oct. 22 OPEN Oct. 29 at Washington Nov. 5 at Seattle Nov. 12 L.A. Raiders Nov. 19 at Philadelphia Nov. 26 Chicago Nov. 30 at Arizona Dec. 3 Washington Dec. 10 at Dallas Dec. 17 at St. Louis Dec. 24 San Diego	REDSKINS 2-3 Sept. 3 Arizona 27-7 Sept. 10 L.A. Raiders 8-20 Sept. 17 at Denver 31-38 Sept. 24 at Tampa Bay 5-14 Oct. 1 Dallas 27-23 Oct. 8 at Philadelphia Oct. 15 at Arizona Oct. 22 Detroit Oct. 29 N.Y. Giants Nov. 5 at Kansas City Nov. 12 OPEN Nov. 19 Seattle Nov. 26 Philadelphia Dec. 3 at Dallas Dec. 10 at N.Y. Giants Dec. 17 at St. Louis Dec. 24 Carolina
BEARS 2-2 Sept. 3 Minnesota 31-14 Sept. 10 Green Bay 24-27 Sept. 17 at Tampa Bay 25-6 Sept. 24 at St. Louis 28-34 Oct. 1 OPEN Oct. 8 Carolina Oct. 15 at Jacksonville Oct. 22 Houston Oct. 29 at Minnesota Nov. 5 Pittsburgh Nov. 12 at Green Bay Nov. 19 Detroit Nov. 26 at N.Y. Giants Dec. 3 at Detroit Dec. 10 at Cincinnati Dec. 17 Tampa Bay Dec. 24 Philadelphia	BUCS 3-2 Sept. 3 at Philadelphia 21-6 Sept. 10 at Cleveland 6-22 Sept. 17 Chicago 8-25 Sept. 24 Washington 14-6 Oct. 1 at Carolina 20-13 Oct. 8 Cincinnati Oct. 15 Minnesota Oct. 22 Atlanta Oct. 29 at Houston Nov. 5 OPEN Nov. 12 at Detroit Nov. 19 Jacksonville Nov. 26 at Green Bay Dec. 3 Chicago Dec. 10 Green Bay Dec. 17 at Chicago Dec. 23 Detroit	LIONS 1-3 Sept. 3 at Pittsburgh 20-23 Sept. 10 at Minnesota 20-10 Sept. 17 Arizona 17-20 Sept. 24 San Francisco 27-24 Oct. 1 OPEN Oct. 8 Cleveland Oct. 15 at Green Bay Oct. 22 at Washington Oct. 29 Green Bay Nov. 5 at Atlanta Nov. 12 Tampa Bay Nov. 19 at Chicago Nov. 23 Minnesota Dec. 3 Chicago Dec. 10 at Houston Dec. 17 Jacksonville Dec. 23 at Tampa Bay	PACKERS 3-1 Sept. 3 St. Louis 14-17 Sept. 10 at Chicago 27-24 Sept. 17 N.Y. Giants 14-6 Sept. 24 at Jacksonville 24-14 Oct. 1 OPEN Oct. 8 at Dallas Oct. 15 Detroit Oct. 22 Minnesota Oct. 29 at Detroit Nov. 5 at Minnesota Nov. 12 Chicago Nov. 19 at Cleveland Nov. 26 Tampa Bay Dec. 3 Cincinnati Dec. 10 at Tampa Bay Dec. 16 at New Orleans Dec. 24 Pittsburgh	VIKINGS 2-2 Sept. 3 at Chicago 14-31 Sept. 10 Detroit 20-10 Sept. 17 Dallas 17-23 O.T. Sept. 24 at Pittsburgh 44-24 Oct. 1 OPEN Oct. 8 Houston Oct. 15 at Tampa Bay Oct. 22 at Green Bay Oct. 29 Chicago Nov. 5 Green Bay Nov. 12 at Arizona Nov. 19 New Orleans Nov. 23 at Detroit Dec. 3 Tampa Bay Dec. 10 Cleveland Dec. 16 at San Francisco Dec. 24 at Cincinnati
49ERS 4-1 Sept. 3 at New Orleans 24-22 Sept. 10 Atlanta 41-10 Sept. 17 New England 28-3 Sept. 25 at Detroit 24-27 Oct. 1 N.Y. Giants 20-6 Oct. 8 OPEN Oct. 15 at Indianapolis Oct. 22 at St. Louis Oct. 29 New Orleans Nov. 5 Carolina Nov. 12 at Dallas Nov. 19 at Miami Nov. 26 St. Louis Dec. 3 Buffalo Dec. 10 at Carolina Dec. 16 Minnesota Dec. 24 Atlanta	FALCONS 4-1 Sept. 3 Carolina 23-20 O.T. Sept. 10 at San Francisco 10-41 Sept. 17 at New England 27-24 O.T. Sept. 24 N.Y. Jets 13-3 Oct. 1 New England 30-17 Oct. 8 OPEN Oct. 15 at St. Louis Oct. 22 at Tampa Bay Oct. 29 Dallas Nov. 5 Detroit Nov. 12 at Buffalo Nov. 19 St. Louis Nov. 26 at Arizona Dec. 3 at Miami Dec. 10 New Orleans Dec. 17 at Carolina Dec. 24 San Francisco	PANTHERS 0-4 Sept. 3 at Atlanta 20-23 O.T. Sept. 10 at Buffalo 9-31 Sept. 17 St. Louis 13-31 Sept. 24 OPEN Oct. 1 Tampa Bay 13-20 Oct. 8 at Chicago Oct. 15 N.Y. Jets Oct. 22 New Orleans Oct. 29 at New England Nov. 5 at San Francisco Nov. 12 at St. Louis Nov. 19 Arizona Nov. 26 at New Orleans Dec. 3 Indianapolis Dec. 10 San Francisco Dec. 17 Atlanta Dec. 24 at Washington	RAMS 4-1 Sept. 3 at Green Bay 17-14 Sept. 10 New Orleans 17-13 Sept. 17 at Carolina 13-10 Sept. 24 Chicago 34-28 Oct. 1 at Indianapolis 18-21 Oct. 8 OPEN Oct. 15 Atlanta Oct. 22 San Francisco Oct. 29 at Philadelphia Nov. 5 at New Orleans Nov. 12 Carolina Nov. 19 at Atlanta Nov. 26 at San Francisco Dec. 3 at N.Y. Jets Dec. 10 Buffalo Dec. 17 Washington Dec. 24 Miami	SAINTS 0-5 Sept. 3 San Francisco 22-24 Sept. 10 at St. Louis 13-17 Sept. 17 Atlanta 24-27 O.T. Sept. 24 at N.Y. Giants 29-45 Oct. 1 Philadelphia 10-16 Oct. 8 OPEN Oct. 15 Miami Oct. 22 at Carolina Oct. 29 at San Francisco Nov. 5 St. Louis Nov. 12 Indianapolis Nov. 19 at Minnesota Nov. 26 Carolina Dec. 3 at New England Dec. 10 at Atlanta Dec. 16 Green Bay Dec. 24 at N.Y. Jets



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This Week's Game Last Week's Record Season Record

	Doug Hong Econo Lodge	Mark Lewman Five Points Tire	The Staff of Grosvenor Hotel	Debbie Clark Los Altos Bar & Grill
	7-5 45-24	5-7 47-22	8-4 40-29	8-4 48-21
ARIZONA at GIANTS	GIANTS	ARIZONA	GIANTS	GIANTS
CAROLINA at CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	* CHICAGO
CINCINNATI at TAMPA BAY	TAMPA BAY	CINCINNATI	CINCINNATI	TAMPA BAY
CLEVELAND at DETROIT	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND
GREEN BAY at DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	GREEN BAY	DALLAS
HOUSTON at MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA
INDIANAPOLIS at MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI
JETS at BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO
PITTSBURGH at JACKSONVILLE	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
SEATTLE at OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND
WASHINGTON at PHILADELPHIA	WASHINGTON	PHILADELPHIA	WASHINGTON	PHILADELPHIA
DENVER at NEW ENGLAND	DENVER	DENVER	NEW ENGLAND	DENVER
SAN DIEGO at KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY

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Van's Restaurant**This Week's Game**
Last Week's Record
Season Record

	6-6 40-29	7-5 44-25	7-5 46-23	7-5 49-20
ARIZONA at GIANTS	GIANTS	GIANTS	GIANTS	ARIZONA
CAROLINA at CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO	CHICAGO
CINCINNATI at TAMPA BAY	CINCINNATI	TAMPA BAY	TAMPA BAY	TAMPA BAY
CLEVELAND at DETROIT	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND	CLEVELAND
GREEN BAY at DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS	DALLAS
HOUSTON at MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA	MINNESOTA
INDIANAPOLIS at MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI	MIAMI
JETS at BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO	BUFFALO
PITTSBURGH at JACKSONVILLE	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH	PITTSBURGH
SEATTLE at OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND	OAKLAND
WASHINGTON at PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA	PHILADELPHIA
DENVER at NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND	NEW ENGLAND
SAN DIEGO at KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY	KANSAS CITY

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